

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first field-programmable code, a second FPU of a second type including a second FPU code, a computer-implemented method comprising steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code; and

(B) if the first FPU and the first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

(A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with at least one of the plurality of FPU codes.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality

of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (A) is performed in response to installation of the first field-programmable unit in the computer system.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (B) comprises a step of:

(B)(1) providing the user with information descriptive of third FPU code that is suitable for storage in the first field-programmable unit and that is compatible with the second FPU code.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step (A) is performed in response to replacement of a third field-programmable unit with the first field-programmable unit, and wherein the third field-programmable unit includes the third FPU code.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, and wherein the step (B)(1) comprises steps of:

(B)(1)(a) identifying a compatible combination of field-programmable unit codes previously installed in the computer system;

(B)(1)(b) identifying, in the identified combination of previously-installed field-programmable unit codes, an identifier of FPU code suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

(B)(1)(c) providing the user with information descriptive of the FPU code identified by the identifier.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of FPUs including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of combinations of compatible field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the step (B)(1) comprises steps of:

(B)(1)(a) identifying, in the revision compatibility descriptor, a record describing the plurality of FPU codes;

(B)(1)(b) identifying, in the identified record, a code identifier identifying FPU code suitable for use in the first field-programmable unit; and

(B)(1)(c) providing the user with information descriptive of the FPU code identified by the code identifier.

12. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit FPU of a first type, the first FPU including first field-programmable unit code, an apparatus comprising:

determination means for determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type, and wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system; and

notification means for notifying a user of the computer system that the first FPU and first FPU code are not compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code if the determination means determines that the first FPU and first FPU code are not compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the determination means comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the determination means further comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, wherein the apparatus further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the

determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the notification means comprises means for providing the user with information descriptive of third FPU code that is suitable for storage in the first field-programmable unit and that is compatible with the second FPU code.

18. (Previously presented) A storage medium readable by a computer in a computer system including a first field-programmable unit of a first type, the first field-programmable unit including first field-programmable unit (FPU) code, the storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type, and wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system; and

(B) if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, notifying a user of the computer system of the incompatibility.

19. (Original) The storage medium of claim 18, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

(A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

20. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

21. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

22. (Original) The storage medium of claim 19, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

23. (Original) The storage medium of claim 18, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

24. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code;

a second field-programmable unit (FPU) of a second type, the second FPU including second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system;

a compatibility verifier coupled to the first FPU and operable to determine whether the first FPU and the first FPU code are compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code the computer system, and to notify a user of the computer system of the incompatibility if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code.

25. (Original) The computer system of claim 24, further comprising a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is further operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

26. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is further operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

27. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, further comprising a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 25, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

29. (Original) The computer system of claim 24, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

30-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A computer system comprising:

- a first field-programmable unit (FPU) comprising first FPU code;

- a second FPU comprising second FPU code; and

- a compatibility verifier coupled to the first FPU, the compatibility verifier being operable to determine whether the first FPU code is different from the second FPU code and, if the first FPU code is determined to be different from the second FPU code, to notify a user of the computer system that the first FPU code is incompatible with the computer system.

43. (Original) The computer system of claim 42, wherein the first FPU comprises a field-replaceable unit.

44. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 42, wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to provide the user with information descriptive of third FPU code

that is suitable for storage in the first FPU and that is compatible with the computer system.

45. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, a computer-implemented method comprising steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are in the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type;

(B) if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, identifying third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

(C) installing the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

(A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the first field-programmable unit comprises a field-replaceable unit.

51. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the step (A) is performed in response to installation of the first field-programmable unit in the computer system.

52. (Previously presented) In a computer system including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, an apparatus comprising:

determination means for determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are in the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the

second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type;

identification means for identifying third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code; and

installation means for installing the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the determination means comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the determination means further comprises:

means for determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the determination means comprises means for determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

57. (Previously presented) A storage medium readable by a computer in a computer system including a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code, the storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps of:

(A) determining whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are in the computer system, wherein the second FPU includes the second FPU code, and wherein the second FPU is of a second type that differs from the first type;

(B) if the first FPU code is determined not to be compatible with the computer system, identifying third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

(C) installing the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

58. (Original) The storage medium of claim 57, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-programmable units including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of:

(A)(1) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

59. (Original) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) further comprises a step of:

(A)(2) determining whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

60. (Original) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the computer system further comprises a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the step (A)(1) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

61. (Original) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the computer system further comprises a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the step (A) comprises a step of determining that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

62. (Previously presented) A computer system comprising:

a first field-programmable unit (FPU) of a first type, the first FPU including first FPU code;

a compatibility verifier coupled to the first FPU and operable to determine whether the first FPU and first FPU code are compatible with a second FPU and second FPU code, wherein both the first FPU and the second FPU are connected to the computer system, and, if the first FPU and first FPU code are determined not to be

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compatible with the second FPU and second FPU code, to identify third FPU code that is compatible with the computer system and suitable for installation in the first field-programmable unit; and

a code installer coupled to the first FPU and operable to install the third FPU code in the first field-programmable unit.

63. (Original) The computer system of claim 62, further comprising a plurality of FPUs including a corresponding plurality of FPU codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes.

64. (Original) The computer system of claim 63, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine whether the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of field-replaceable units.

65. (Original) The computer system of claim 63, further comprising a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of FPU codes, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the plurality of FPU codes if a combination of the first FPU code and the plurality of FPU codes is among the plurality of compatible combinations of FPU identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.

66. (Original) The computer system of claim 63, further comprising a plurality of field-replaceable units and a revision compatibility descriptor identifying a plurality of compatible combinations of field-programmable unit codes and field-replaceable units, and wherein the compatibility verifier is operable to determine that the first FPU code is compatible with the computer system if a combination of the first FPU code, the plurality of FPU codes, and the plurality of field-replaceable units is among the plurality of

combination combinations of FPU codes and field-replaceable units identified by the revision compatibility descriptor.